

Utah Department of Health

Concerned about Water Supplies

WAZB 15 Mar 1983

SALT LAKE—Utah Department of Health officials have expressed concern that many of Utah's public water supplies are not at safe levels for drinking, and they list several in Wasatch County which they are concerned about.

The Department of Health is releasing the names of water systems which have failed to notify their customers that the system didn't meet the necessary water quality standards from Oct. to Dec. of 1983.

According to Phil Wright, Wasatch County Sanitarian, the department is more concerned that the people who live on the systems are notified of the discrepancies. There are no potential problems that exist right now, but the residents which have drinking water connections should be alert that these systems did not file, or do not meet the standards of the State Department.

"We suggest that people contact their water suppliers if their system is listed as being in violation of standards and urge their supplier to find the problem

in the water system and correct it," said Gayle Smith, Director, Bureau of Public Water Supplies.

There are nine systems in Wasatch County which didn't file with the state, or do not meet the standards set by the state. They are: (Failure to Sample for Bacteriologic Quality) Daniel-Bethers Water Company, Keetley Water Company. Those who have failed to meet the standards or exceed them are: Charleston Water Conservancy District, Daniel Domestic Water Co., The Other End, Royal Coachman Trailer Park, Soldier Creek Estates, Timberlakes Subdivision, and Wasatch Mountain State Park.

The Safe Drinking Water Committee feels that these types of violations are preventable with almost no expenditure of funds. Ninety-six percent of Utah's population is served by water systems rated "Approved", many other systems do not meet water safety standards. Enforcement of these standards is proceeding on a priority basis.

Approximately two hundred of Utah's 1,200 public water systems do not meet necessary safety standards. Two thirds of these violations are simply due to systems' failure to conduct the routine tests essential to monitor the quality of water they deliver to the public.

When a true emergency exists, the local or state health department will alert the public and advise people to boil drinking water.

The United States Congress has decided to include public notice of water system deficiencies in the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The purpose of public notification is to have the public aware of system problems if and when the system fails to notify its users.

In a 1984 agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Utah Department of Health has agreed to release information to the public every 90 days. Each water system is sent a letter by the Department of Health Bureau of Public Water Supplies and is required to respond within

30 days. They are also required to notify their users that the system is not meeting standards.

"Some systems simply don't or won't notify their public. That's why the new regulations with EPA require that we make the notification when they don't," says Gayle Smith.

"We want to encourage officials to correct any deficiencies in the water supply immediately upon detection of routine unsatisfactory samples," he said.

Five systems throughout the state, two in Morgan County--the Richville System and the South Robison Spring System, one in Utah County--Shuler Water Company, one in Millard County--the Holden System, and one in Tooele County--the Stockton System, currently have boil orders in effect. All five of the systems are in the midst of improvement and construction projects. Four of the five systems are planning to have their improvements completed by June of 1984. The other system expects to have its problems resolved by the end of the year.

3-17-83

Drug Abuse clinic slated

HEBER CITY—Following the series of articles which were recently published by the Wasatch Wave, Sharyn Paradise of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center will be holding a special meeting open to the public.

According to Ms. Paradise, the meeting is to vent the feelings of

those who are concerned about the problems that face a community where drugs and alcohol abuse are present.

The meeting will be held at the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Center, located at 291 N. 200 E., in Heber City. The special meeting will begin at 7:30.

Drug Problem can be Resolved

By Nari Riddle

Drugs and alcohol are often considered two different classes of substances technically, they are not, but his culture frequently thinks of them as being very different. Alcohol use is accepted whereas use of other drugs is not. As this series has pointed out, the abuses of alcohol and all drugs ("street" and legal) are of great concern to this community and require our attention. This article will conclude a 3-part series on substance abuses and look at what Wasatch County is doing to combat the problem.

The Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program has been operating five months. Within the first six weeks of its opening, Director Sharyn Paradise says the center

was treating a maximum caseload of 20 clients.

The clients Paradise sees are referred by private physicians, schools, the clients themselves or the court system. She estimates that 15-20% of her caseload is court referred under a diversion agreement. Instead of serving jail or prison time, the individual convicted of a substance abuse violation is given the option of receiving treatment.

Some of these clients are admittedly hostile, she says, but she thinks she can help them as well as those who seek treatment on a voluntary basis. Some court ordered Paradise is even quite relieved, Paradise adds.

Court ordered clients are even more relieved, Paradise adds. "Some of them need the structure of being ordered in because then

it's easier to admit a problem that way."

In her treatment, she says, "The notion that I'm trying to deal with is to get individuals who have alcohol or drug problems to have some insight as to why they use or abuse substances and to make a choice of whether they want to abstain from drinking or using drugs, or else make responsible choices about how to control

made to include the family and center in helping the student." She adds that in any action taken after a drug or alcohol user has been identified in his school is not as much a punitive reaction. "It's got to be a situation in which you help the student."

John Carlile, principal of the high school, says he helped and alcohol center has helped him.

"If a teacher sees a problem, then all he has to do is refer, and a professional observation is made

of the student. Of course, once that observation is made by competent people, steps can be

punishment, according to Wasatch County Deputy Sheriff Lance Gardner. If the child is a repeat offender, he can be taken out of the home and placed in a foster home where he'll get the help he needs, Gardner says. "The best way you can help some kids is to get them into the court system because Mom and Dad aren't dealing with the problem. It's not as much a matter of locking them up as getting them help."

When a student is caught using drugs or alcohol at the middle school, Principal Bill Dudley says, "The first people I involve are the parents and police first, in that order, without any questions about it. It's something in which the police should be involved and the parents."

When a minor is arrested for drug abuse, he must appear in juvenile court and sometimes pay restitution or work off his

Cost. to 3A

—event some very staggering statistics about the Utah State Board of Education that faces the students, parents and residents of Utah.

On the average, drug trafficking in the state of Utah increased 140 percent since 1975.

This is only part of the survey that the heads of 81 federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies have compiled.

Other alarming results of the survey are:

In 1982, illegal narcotics were seized by law enforcement officers in Utah on 4,000 occasions.

Almost every harmful narcotic substance is more readily available in Utah than ever before.

Teenagers in Utah began to abuse drugs at an earlier age. In 1982, those ages 15, 17, and 14.

Four-fifths of the respondents said student drug education programs are inadequate in most parts of the state.

Up to 75 percent of all crimes committed for gain in Utah are caused by drug abuse and drug trafficking.

Sixty-three percent of investigated drug offenses involve marijuanna; 16 percent cocaine; 4 percent hashish and hashish oil.

85 percent more available currently than in 1975.

Illegal drugs during the last year.

—more available; heroin 17 percent

—illegal drugs during the last year.

4/15/77 Drug Abuse Aired at Wasatch Symposium

On Wednesday, February 3rd, a drug and alcohol abuse symposium was held at the Wasatch County High School. Approximately 200 people, including some 35 high school and junior high students attended. Although the conference began as a drug seminar, it soon directed itself toward a human relationship or communications issue.

THE PROGRAM INVOLVED
several guest speakers. The first was Robert L. Leake, Spec-

ialist in Health, Physical Education and Recreation for the Utah State Board of Education. Mr. Leake gave a summary of drug usage in Utah and also how high this abuse is in some rural areas of the state. The second speaker, Dr. Lynn Raston, Psychologist for the Utah State Hospital, directed his comments toward the role of various peoples and agencies in the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse. He emphasized that the so-called "drug problem" is basically a "people problem."

THE CONFERENCE ALSO
had a panel of a dozen selected students who gave their critical reaction toward issues as they personally observed them. Of course, their views were not necessarily held by the majority of Wasatch County students. After the panel was dismissed, discussion groups were held in an effort to identify the major problems concerning adolescents and their possible solutions. Late in the afternoon, a dinner was served in the high school gymnasium, after which a fine presentation of the value of the home, caring for others, and the importance of family solidarity as a means of preventing deviant behavior was given by LaVar Rockwood. Mr. Rockwood is Director of the Division of Drugs for the State of Utah.

THE CONFERENCE WAS
very interesting, and to say the least, stimulating. Of course, it would be unrealistic to even hint that all or even most of the suggestions made by the students and other participants could be realized in the near future. Presumably, there will be other projects involving some of the various ideas and solu-

tions made during the course of the February conference.

Those individuals who were involved as members of the planning committee, including local school district, thoroughly appreciate the fact that so many people did attend and were so interested in helping where they could. It is hoped that the very constructive attitude and enthusiasm expressed by the many adults taking part in the symposium will not decline. Hopefully, a followup will be made in an effort to work wherever possible with troubled adolescents in our community.

MINUTES OF THE WASATCH CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

April 18, 1983

12:15 P.M.

Commission Room

Present were:

Gilbert Olsen
 Calvin Giles
 NaDene Probst
 R. Raymond Green, M.D.
 Phil Wright
 Maxine McAfee
 Sharyn Paradise, Ph.D.
 Nelda Duke
 Reg Tadd
 Elizabeth Murdock
 Lorraine Allen

Chairman
 Vice-chairman
 Member
 Medical Officer
 Health Officer
 Health Nurse
 Alcohol-Drug Director
 Secretary

Excused:

Welcome: Chairman Olsen welcomed those present and called the meeting to order.

Opening Prayer: Mrs. Probst gave the opening prayer.

Minutes: Minutes of the meeting held March 21, 1983, were read by Mrs. Duke. Mr. Giles made a motion minutes be approved as read. Mr. Olsen seconded motion. Motion carried.

Alcohol & Drug Report: Dr. Paradise submitted a copy of the alcohol and drug report for April. (See copy #1).

Daniel Domestic Water: Mr. Wright reported the State Health Department has signed a complaint on the Daniel Domestic Water System for failure to comply with regulations. We will be hearing more on this problem.

Immunization Program: Mr. Wright said we will be meeting with the school board on May 12th at 7:15 P.M. to discuss the immunization program before Fall registration.

Charleston Sub-Division: Mr. Wright stated there is an application for a sub-division in Charleston. Soil tests are being done on the property and a decision will be made after the high water is over. There was some discussion on the problems that could occur with sub-divisions and septic tanks in the Charleston area. It was the feeling of the board that Charleston should be hooked onto the sewer system.

Lake Creek Sprinkling: Mr. Giles reported that Lake Creek is now on a sprinkling system and plans are being made for a sub-division in this area. Water from springs will be converted to culinary use.

Center Creek Water System: Mr. Wright stated the Center Creek Domestic Water System is planning on re-developing their spring to clean up the contamination.